



**Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority
Meeting Minutes**

October 22, 2014 AT 9 AM

Public Services Building

City of Ankeny

220 W. 1st Street

Ankeny, Iowa

Those in attendance were as follows: Bob Mahaffey, Bob Rice, Cindy Valin, Dale Farnham, Jennifer Welch, Karen Oppelt, Amy Bryant, Mark Arentsen, Mark Land, Rich Leopold, Keith Hubbard, Alec Johnson, and Jeanne Uhl

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Approval of the minutes from September 24, 2014 meeting. Motion by Bob Rice, 2nd by Dale Farnham, motion carried.

2. Update: Iowa DNR Planning Grant Submittal

The grant application was not successful with awards going to Walnut Creek WMA and Mud, Camp, & Spring Creek WMA. The grant was good, but the money was allocated to those that hadn't received any prior funding. There were five total applications for the \$200,000 that was available. Bob Rice indicated that the IDNR is trying to find money for implementation which is the next phase of the process for the watershed groups.

3. Implementation Working Group Meeting #2

a. Review & Approve Final Infrastructure Recommendations

A copy the Infrastructure Work Group recommendations were provided to the attendees. Feedback was asked for on the goals – are they reasonable goals? One comment was that the lack of specific monitoring details leans toward giving some flexibility in the plan.

Three goals of the plan:

i. Monitor for success

- a) Some comments: our current monitoring is lacking, no standard exists for sediment, and would like to see reduction goals quantified for nitrogen and phosphorous.

- ii. Engage rural and urban partners in the installation and maintenance of water quality and quantity improvement practices, to restore hydrologic stability/function, reduce flashiness and improve water quality
 - a) Some comments: implementation will include the prioritization of items, language of vegetative cover versus green cover (changed in document), and change ‘encourage return to pasture/perennial crops’ to ‘encourage return to perennial crops’.
 - iii. Work for consistency across jurisdictions in implementation and emphasize incentives and education over regulation
 - a) No significant comments were made regarding this item.
 - iv. The group discussed the need to provide approval so that they can begin to work on the implementation phase. A next step will be to have meetings with councils/boards for their input.
 - v. The recommendations were approved with changes. Dave Miller motioned, Dale Farnham seconded, motion carried.
- b. Presentation on Policy, Education, & Communication Recommendation Document

Mark Land provided attendees with a copy of the Policy, Education, & Communication Working Group’s Recommendations to attendees. It included five (5) recommendations with some ideas on the approach to meet the recommendation.
- c. Group Discussion on Policy, Education, & Communication Document

The five recommendations and comments:

 - i. Support a Greenway System: Align the greenway system along the boundaries of the 500-year floodplain.
 - a) Comments: 100 versus 500-year floodplain isn’t that much difference as far as land area, make a distinction between existing infrastructure and redevelopment, new development needs to be restricted from the 500-year floodplain, and tributaries need a buffer based on the tributary size.
 - ii. Establish consistent guidelines for developers and landowners watershed-wide while ensuring conservation-minded future development.
 - a) Comments: review the existing ordinances to see how they fit the plan, make new or update ordinances where necessary, adopt a natural resources overlay district approach, some items should be mandatory and some incentivized, there should be consistency in all jurisdictions, flood reduction component is very important, SUDAS adoption example of a voluntary program, and if there is a fix for water quantity it will help water quality. Remove ‘The Tomorrow Plan’.
 - iii. Establish performance-based measures
 - a) Comments: invest in elements that have proof of reduction of contaminants.
 - iv. Grow the pie – particularly for upstream work
 - a) Comments: develop pooled resources among jurisdictions for collaboration and grant match, start small, work on one project at a time, hire a watershed

coordinator to further the effort, get agricultural group resources, and show the need for funding because of the plan.

v. Education and Communication

a) Comments: change “Speed Dating” to small group or other term.

d. Future Meeting Agenda Discussion

A survey will be sent out to see what works for members regarding a December meeting. Update Mark Land if there is information that would be important to discuss at the next meeting.

4. Other Items - There were no other items discussed.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.